



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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NOAA WORKS TO SUPPORT POTOMAC WATERSHED TRASH SUMMIT

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is in continual support of efforts to address marine debris in the environment through projects like the Potomac Watershed Trash Summit. Facilitated by the Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF), the Summit will address marine debris in the Potomac and Anacostia River Watersheds. The event, sponsored in part by NOAA's Marine Debris Program, will be held on March 16, 2006 at the World Bank in Washington, DC. In addition to funding, NOAA personnel serve on the AFF Advisory Council with other Federal, state and local officials, as well as attend planning committees for the event. During the 2006 Potomac Watershed Trash Summit, congressional, agency, and other interested groups will commit to addressing the problem of marine debris in their backyards, focusing on local debris issues within the Potomac Watershed, including the Anacostia River trash reduction efforts of NOAA and its partners as a model program.

This summit is one of many projects and national events funded by the Marine Debris Program to mitigate the problem of marine debris in our environment. "NOAA is In association with the Trash Summit, NOAA is also helping to sponsor an Anacostia River Trash Clean-up that will take place on March 18, 2006 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm in the Watts Branch area of the Anacostia River Watershed. Other partners involved in this clean up include the Anacostia Watershed Society, Clean Water Action, Casey Trees, Washington Parks and People, Anacostia River Keepers, and the Sierra Club to name only a few. For more information on the clean up, visit the website listed below.

"Marine debris is a significant problem world-wide as well as within our watershed communities", said Timothy Keeney, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere at NOAA, who is scheduled to give remarks during the Trash Summit. "Projects like these demonstrate NOAA's commitment to promoting local stewardship and the well-being of the waters in our own backyards."

The NOAA Marine Debris Program works with other NOAA offices, as well as other federal, state and local agencies and private sector partners to support

national, state, local and international efforts to protect and conserve our nation's natural resources and coastal waterways from the impacts of marine debris.

The Marine Debris Program is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department. NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners and nearly 60 countries to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes.

On the Web:

NOAA - <http://www.noaa.gov/>

NOAA's Marine Debris Program - <http://www.marinedebris.noaa.gov/>

Potomac Watershed Trash Summit – <http://www.trashfreepotomac.org/>

Anacostia River Trash Cleanup – <http://www.anacostiaws.org>